

The River View

Riverside

Join the Journey

www.RiversideEPC.org

March 2021

From the Pastor—

This time a year ago we were watching a new coronavirus make its way across the world. China, after a dramatic shutdown, was nearing its peak, while infections were reported by the hundreds in Italy, Iran, and South Korea. The United States was soon to be next. Minnesota saw its first confirmed COVID-19 case on March 5, 2020. And we had no idea what we were in for.

At the time it seemed the biggest issue was fighting fear and taking refuge in God (Psalms 91 and 46). All we needed to do was to wash our hands a bit more and stay home when we were feeling sick. (That, and figure out where on earth to buy toilet paper!) In last year's March newsletter, I quoted 2 Timothy 2:9 about how God's word was not chained despite Paul's imprisonment. I concluded, "I see no impediment to the work of the church that COVID-19 poses." How I am challenged by those words today.

We're hanging on. The word of God is still proclaimed in our pulpit. We are (most of us) receiving the Lord's supper. We gather in prayer and praise. Youth group is happening. Our Lenten gatherings are taking place, albeit modified. But friends, this has been a hard year, hasn't it? The fellowship our church has treasured for so long is reduced to brief, masked interactions. There are so many people we miss seeing and worshiping with. While vaccines are providing a glimmer of hope, the way out of this pandemic seems just as murky as the way into it.

This is a time to speak the Bible's words of lament. I found particular comfort this morning reading through Lamentations 3, the ABCs of sorrow (each three-verse stanza starts with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet). The poet speaks of feeling driven away (v. 2), walled in beyond escape (v. 7), unheard when praying (v. 8), and deprived of peace (v. 17) and "all that [he] had hoped from the LORD" (v. 18). Sound familiar?

Yet he finds reason to hope (v. 21): the LORD's great love and unfailing compassion (v. 22). Every morning brings new discoveries of God's care and faithfulness (v. 23), leading the sufferer to say, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him" (v. 24). I find it especially interesting that he says this to himself. He's isolated and discouraged. If he's going to get through this, he has to wake himself up and force himself to remember what he knows to be true.

Verses 40–41 are a timely word this Lenten season: "Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD. Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to God in heaven..." (NIV). God is working in our present circumstances, and he's playing the long game. Look for the daily mercies, confess the daily sins, and find hope anew in the God of salvation.

Pastor Isaac

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March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 6:30 Deacons	3 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 Lenten Gathering 6:30 Youth Group	4 9:00 Women's Study	5 10:00 Men's Study	6
7 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship and Communion	8	9 5:45 Finance 6:30 Session	10 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 Lenten Gathering	11 9:00 Women's Study	12 10:00 Men's Study	13 <i>Spring Clocks Ahead!</i>
14 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship	15	16	17 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 Lenten Gathering 6:30 Youth Group	18 9:00 Women's Study	19 10:00 Men's Study	20 
21 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship	22	23	24 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 Lenten Gathering	25 9:00 Women's Study	26 10:00 Men's Study	27
28  9am Praise Team 10 am Worship	29	30	31 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 Youth Group	 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	 GOOD FRIDAY	

Who to Contact

Church Office 320-251-5801 Office Hours
 Pastor Isaac Gould M, T, Th 9:00-4:00
 W 12:00-4:00
 320-428-5784 (cell)
 Financial Sec.– Pam Dille Mon. 9:00–12:00
 Secretary – Janelle Daniel Tues- Fri 9:00-1:00
 Treasurer—Mark Johansen 253-0786
 Custodians—ServiceMaster (contact office)
 Prayer Line—Judy Swanson 320-240-9070

March Birthdays

- 13 Julie Pennertz
- 21 Randy Rakke
- 24 Dave Christiansen
- 27 Wyatt Nyholm



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, or got it wrong, please call Janelle at 251-5801 and let her know so we (hopefully) won't make the same error in the future! Thanks!

January 12th Session report

Session minutes are available from the office

Avg January Attendance—45

Budget Summary - as of January 31, 2021

	Actual	Budgeted
Jan. Income	9,457.05	*
Jan. Expenses	13,862.39	*
YTD Income	9,457.05	*
YTD Expenses	13,862.39	*
YTD Net Income (loss)	(\$4,405.34)	

*2021 Budget details have not been input yet

March Anniversaries



No Anniversaries this month

Riverside Planned Mission Support - 2021

- Pregnancy Resource Center
- YFC—BRAID
- Haiti - Hope Orphanage
- EPC WO (Burdshall, Hamd, McKay)
- Chicago 720
- Arrive Ministries SENT
- Terebinth Refuge
- Place of Hope

Your 2021 Elders/Deacons

Elders

Patrick Farrell (19-21) B, W 320-232-3643
 Linda Paulson (19-21) M, N 320-420-2921
 Matthew Pennertz (19-21) F 320-405-8212
 Bruce Glanzer (20-22) F, M 320-290-6818
 Dave Jones (20-22) N 320-267-1054
 Mark Olson (20-22) P, WC 320-252-7242
 Rick Petersen (21-23) P, B 320-774-5006
 Ruth Tidd (21-23) WC, CE 320-387-2980
 Matt Zieske (21-23) CE, W 320-249-5253

Deacons:

Mike Beltinck (19-21) UG, CP 320-363-4238
 Deanna Petersen (19-21) CP, MM 320-774-5005
 Gean Wiltgen (19-21) CS, MM 320-290-2798
 Jay Blomquist (20-22) FL, FS 320-229-2766
 Dave Markgraf (20-22) S, RS 320-493-2720
 Angelina Holte (21-23) T, V 503-841-9603
 Josh Mumme (21-23) DL, CH 320-266-7101
 Julie Pennertz (21-23) H, UG 320-333-8270

Key:

- B Building/Grounds
- CE Christian Education
- M Missions/Outreach
- P Personnel
- WC We Care
- F Finance
- N Nominating Committee
- W Worship

Key:

- DL Deacon Liaison (Head Deacon)
- CH Coffee Hour
- CS Corresponding Sec.
- FL Funeral Luncheons
- MM Meals Ministry
- S Sanctuary
- UG Ushers/Greeters
- I Transportation
- CP Communion Prep
- FS Food Shelf
- H Hospitality
- RS Recording Sec.
- V Visitations
- NC Nominating Committee

Our Riverside Community

You are welcome to join us in person at 10am on Sundays or you can join us online at riversideepc.org/sunday or on our [YouTube channel](#) to view our worship in a live stream format.

If you are unable to view our service online, the audio portion of the sermon will be available on our website, usually by the following Tuesday. We can also provide CDs (audio only) or DVDs (audio/video) of the sermon. Let us know if you need a copy and which format works for you.

Volunteers are needed!

We need volunteer ushers, readers, sound techs, and projection/streaming techs. Training is available for these jobs. Please sign up for a Sunday you can help on our SignUpGenius [Sunday Servants](#) page. Blessings to you!

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

Riverside wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

[Online Giving](#) lets you go to RiversideEPC.org at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office.

Mail Giving—If you prefer to mail your contributions to the church, or use your bank's Bill Pay option, please use our PO Box number rather than the street address:

Riverside Church
PO Box 139
Sartell, MN 56377-0139



Bible Studies

(at the church unless noted)

Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study
6:30 a.m. weekly

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study
9:00 a.m.—Sept-May

Friday Morning Men's Bible Study
10:00 a.m.—Sept-May



If you, or a loved one, are in need of prayer, please contact

Judy Swanson, 320-240-9070 or
Ruth Tidd— 320-387-2980

to have your prayer request included on
Riverside's confidential prayer chain.



We will be joining together Wednesday evenings throughout Lent at 6:30 with singing, a family-friendly devotional, and teaching from Richard Sibbes's devotional classic, *The Bruised Reed*. Join us in the sanctuary or on [YouTube live](#).

Our Larger Community



Current Volunteer Needs



There are many ways to get involved with Arrive Ministries St. Cloud, but here are the current needs we are looking to fill:

- Homework Helpers for Somali families new to St. Cloud
- English Language Tutors
- 3 sewing teachers (no teaching experience required!)

If you are interested in meeting one of these volunteer needs, please fill out the interest form at: <https://arriveministries.org/volunteer-interest-form/>



Calling all Creatives!

We are looking for women who are willing to share their talents and learn new skills in a cross-cultural creative exchange. If you have a desire to learn and share skills, especially in any of the following areas, please email Samantha at sgrimsley@arriveministries.org today!

- Painting
- Jewelry making
- Ceramics

Other arts are welcome. Share your ideas today!



Drive-Up Communion at Riverside— March 7, 11:30-12:00

Are you participating in our live stream worship and interested in taking communion? The EPC Book of Worship states that communion must be administered "in conjunction with the reading and preaching of the Word, with the prayers of the people accompanied with hymns of praise" (W.3-3F). In recognition of the complexity of the present time, the Session has decided to offer communion to live stream participants in the parking lot after worship.

Please note the updated time. From **11:30-12:00pm on March 7**, those who have joined the worship service live stream may receive communion at their vehicle with health precautions taken. Pull in from 1st Ave N, and head over toward the church where Pastor Isaac or an elder will meet you with the elements.



Ph. (320) 251-5801
office@RiversideEPC.org

Office Hours

Pastor—Isaac Gould Mon., Tues., Thurs . 9:00-4:00
320-428-5784 (cell) Wed. 12:00-4:00

pastor@riversideepc.org

Financial Secretary—Pam Dille

Monday (working from home) 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Secretary—Janelle Daniel office@RiversideEPC.org

Tuesday—Friday 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

(additional hours possible with prior arrangement)



Riverside Vision Statement

Riverside Evangelical Church is called to build a community of saints empowered by the Holy Spirit. We exist to glorify God in all areas of life by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Riverside Mission Statement

Our mission at Riverside Evangelical Church is to further the gospel of Jesus Christ by:

Worshipping and celebrating the presence of God

Psalm 16:11

Discipling that brings us to maturity in Christ

Matthew 28:19

Equipping us to live our faith in every aspect of life

Eph. 4:12

Please contact the church office if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or if your address is incorrect.

Sartell, MN 56377-0139

405 Riverside Ave. N., PO Box 139

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